REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and re-examination and reconsideration of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 has accordingly been canceled. Thus, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 4-9 will remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claim 2 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 4-9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to the phrase "liquid medium." Applicants dispute the propriety of the rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, both the objection and the rejection are now moot and should be withdrawn.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: <u>July 7, 2004</u>

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